

REMARKS

A Notice of Allowance allowing claims 1, 3-11, 13-21, and 23-30 was mailed September 10, 2009. The applicants thank the Examiner for allowing these claims. The applicants submit with this amendment a Request for Continued Examination.

In this amendment, the applicants have amended independent claims 1, 11, and 21, several dependent claims, and added several new claims. More specifically, the applicants have moved features formerly recited in independent claims 1, 11, and 21 to new claims 31-33. However, the applicants have not removed the features added in the Office Action Response filed on June 23, 2009 before the Notice of Allowance was mailed on September 10, 2009. For example, claim 11 recites:

if retrieval of new items of content is disrupted:

continuing to advance through the first playlist for at least the first stream;

caching a first item of content of the first playlist into memory prior to reaching a last item of content of the first playlist;

linking the last item of content of the first playlist to the first item of content of the first playlist in order to repeat at least one of the items of content in the first stream; and

delivering the first stream to the at least one distribution point for delivery to the at least one client terminal.

Independent claims 1 and 21 recite similar features. Therefore, the applicants respectfully submit that the claims are patentable over the references of record for at least the reasons set forth in Office Action Response filed on June 23, 2009.

New dependent claims 34-39 are directed to features described in the applicants' specification. For example, claim 34 recites "The method of claim 1, further comprising removing cached content from the local disk." Claims 35 and 36 recite similar features. These features are described at, for example, pages 14 and 15 of the applicants' specification (describing removing content from disk and from memory). As another example, claim 37 recites "The method of claim 1, further comprising synchronizing the

one or more streams of content with one or more schedules." Claims 38 and 39 recite similar features. These features are described at, for example, page 18 of the applicants' specification (describing a periodic synchronization process). Accordingly, new dependent claims 34-39 add no new matter.

As the application is in condition for allowance, the applicants accordingly request the early mailing of a Notice of Allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney at (206) 359-6065.

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Respectfully submitted,

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